

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 EB-11 AID-20 H-03 ACDA-19

OMB-01 IO-13 RSR-01 /183 W
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R 281202Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4701

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, MT, IS, LY

SUBJ: ITALO-MALTESE TALKS AUGUST 25 AND 26.

REF: VALLETTA 1733 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN DIRECTOR GENERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS
FOREIGN MINISTRY DUCCI VISITED MALTA AUGUST 25-26
FOR TALKS WITH MINTOFF AT LATTER'S REQUEST. SUBJECTS
COVERED WERE LIBYAN-MALTESE RELATIONS; CSCE (SEPTTEL);
ISRAELI-MALTESE RELATIONS; ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE;
AND ITALO-MALTESE RELATIONS. MINTOFF CONFIRMED HE WOULD
ATTEND NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. MOST INTERESTING RESULT
WAS INDICATION MINTOFF REORIENTING HIMSELF TOWARD
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND AWAY FROM LIBYA. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI PROVIDED RUNDOWN
OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DUCCI AND MINTOFF AUGUST 25 AND 26.
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DUCCI HAD THREE SEPARATE SESSIONS IN 24 HOURS, AT WHICH

MASSA BERNUCCI WAS PRESENT. FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE COVERED:

3. LIBYAN-MALTESE RELATIONS. MASSA BERNUCCI SAID ITALIANS CAME AWAY WITH STRONG IMPRESSIONS THAT MINTOFF IS UNHAPPY WITH QADHAFI AND DISSATISFIED WITH STATE OF HIS RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. THREE SPECIFIC CAUSES ADVANCED. FIRST WAS THAT QADHAFI HAS NOT COME THROUGH WITH PROMISED OR EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND OTHER ASSISTANCE. PART OF THIS RELATES TO UNIFORMS AND WEAPONS FOR PIONEER CORPS BUT MASSA BERNUCCI GOT IMPRESSION THAT MINTOFF ALSO EXPECTED SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. SECONDLY, QADHAFI HAS APPARENTLY BEEN COMPLAINING REGULARLY ABOUT ROLE OF NATO (I.E. BRITISH) MILITARY FORCES STATED ON MALTA. SPECIFICALLY, HE HAS COMPLAINED THAT BRITISH AIRCRAFT PROVIDED COVER FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II CRUISE TO ISRAEL TWO MONTHS AGO BUT ALSO ALLEGES MALTA IS TOO TIED TO NATO THROUGH BASE AGREEMENT. THIRD POINT IS THAT MINTOFF BELIEVES QADHAFI IS TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH EFFORTS TO MERGE LIBYA WITH EGYPT AND FEELS THAT ANY MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION WILL DIMINISH MINTOFF'S INFLUENCE IN TRIPOLI. AT THE SAME TIME, MINTOFF SEEMED HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH HIS TALKS WITH LOPEZ RODO IN SPAIN TWO WEEKS AGO, AND SEEMED TO BE INCLINED TOWARDS SHIFTING HIS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES IN DIRECTION OF MAGHREB ARAB STATES, SPAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY. WHILE NOT ALL OF THIS WAS SPELLED OUT BY MINTOFF, ITALIANS HAD CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT FOREGOING IS DIRECTION OF MINTOFF'S THINKING.

4. MALTESE-ISRAELI RELATIONS. DUCCI INQUIRED AS TO STATUS THESE RELATIONS AND WHILE ANSWER CONTAINED SOME BLUSTER, IT ALSO REVEALED MINTOFF IS CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION HE HAS CREATED. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SENT REPLY TO MRS. MEIR (BUT EVIDENTLY IN SEALED ENVELOPE WHICH WAS NOT OPENED BY LOCAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR). SPECIFICS OF REPLY NOT REVEALED BUT MINTOFF INDICATED HE HAD ASSERTED HIS ATTACHMENT TO UNSC RES. 242 WHICH IMPLYING ISRAEL HAD VIOLATED RESOLUTION THROUGH FAILURE TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. MINTOFF APPARENTLY CLAIMED TO BELIEVE THAT SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT CHANGE VENUE OF OCTOBER MEETING FROM MALTA.

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5. NON-ALIGNED MEETING. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THIS MEETING APART FROM MINTOFF CONFIRMING THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY ATTEND.

6. ITALO-MALTESE RELATIONS. MASSA BERNUCCI SAID THEY HAD RATHER DIFFICULT DISCUSSION, OWING PRINCIPALLY TO MINTOFF'S REQUESTS FOR MORE ASSISTANCE. MINTOFF PUSHED FOR ITALIAN COMMITMENTS FOR INVESTMENT BY STATE-OWNED

INDUSTRIES, WHICH ITALIANS WERE UNABLE TO GIVE. MASSA
BERNUCCI ADDED THAT ITALIAN PRIVATE INDUSTRIES WHO HAVE
VISITED MALTA OVER PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, AND WHO HAD
FAVORABLE INITIAL REACTIONS, ARE NOW BACKING AWAY, SINCE
THEIR TALKS WITH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAVE NOT PRODUCED
SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO INCENTIVE.
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